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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0063
RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO 0432
RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO 0200
RUEHNV/AMEMBASSY MONROVIA 1148
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4094
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0185
INFO RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0652
RUESKT/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
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UNCLAS NIAMEY 000148

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FOR AF/FO AND AF/W DENNISON FROM AMBASSADOR ALLEN
PARIS FOR AF WATCHER

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY PLANS TO OPEN MISSION IN
NIGER AND OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS

¶1. Former Turkish Ambassador to Sudan and Chad, Dr. Ali Engin Oba, paid a courtesy call on me during his 48-hour stop in Niger. Oba informed me that the Government of Turkey (GOT) assigned him special envoy status to explore the possibilities of opening more embassies in Sub-Saharan Africa. He said the GOT wished to expand its relations with more African nations for a variety of reasons, including investment opportunities and possible better support for Turkish initiatives at the United Nations.

¶2. Oba informed me he met with Government of Niger (GON) President Tandja, Prime Minister Oumarou and Foreign Minister Mindaoudou about the GOT's desire to open a Mission in Niger before the end of calendar year 2008. (Oba noted that the GOT mission in Abuja currently covers Niger. End note.) He reported that the GON officials welcome the GOT's interest in opening an Embassy in Niamey. In response to my question about the size of the future Mission, he suggested no more than a five-person team.

¶3. Other prospective host countries in Africa for Turkish Missions include Mozambique, Mali and Liberia (ETA Monrovia 06Feb2008).
ALLEN